

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display device, comprising:
a display element which maintains a displayed image
without a supply of electrical power;
changing means for changing the displayed image
5 using electrical power;
a power supply to supply electrical power to the
changing means;
detecting means for detecting a level of voltage
supplied by the power supply; and
10 control means for controlling whether the displayed
image is changed by the changing means based upon a level
of voltage detected by the detecting means.
2. A display device, comprising:
a first display element which requires electrical
power to produce an image thereon, wherein the image thus
produced is stored in memory after a supply of electrical
5 power terminates;
a power supply to supply electrical power to drive
the first display element;
detecting means for detecting a level of voltage
supplied by the power supply; and
10 control means for controlling whether the image is
redrawn in at least a part of the first display element,
based upon the level of voltage detected by the detecting
means.
3. A display device, according to claim 2, wherein
the first display element is a liquid crystal display
element having a memory capability.

4. A display device, according to claim 2, wherein the first display element comprises one of a cholesteric liquid crystal material and a chiral nematic liquid crystal material.

5. A display device, according to claim 2, wherein the control means prevents the image from being redrawn if the level of voltage detected by the detecting means is less than a reference voltage level.

6. A display device, according to claim 2, further comprising a second display element, wherein the control means prevents the image from being redrawn if the level of voltage detected by the detecting means is less than a reference voltage level and the control means controls the second display element to indicate that the image cannot be redrawn.

7. A display device, according to claim 2, wherein the first display element has an indicating portion, wherein the control means prevents the image from being redrawn if the level of voltage detected by the detecting means is less than a reference voltage level and the control means controls the indicating portion to indicate that the image cannot be redrawn.

8. A display device, according to claim 2, wherein the first display element can be divided into a plurality of areas to display a plurality of images, wherein the control means determines which, if any, of the plurality of images can be redrawn based upon the level of voltage detected by the detecting means.

9. A display device, according to claim 8, wherein
the first display element has an indicating portion, and
wherein the control means controls the indicating portion
to indicate that the image cannot be redrawn if the level
5 of voltage detected by the detecting means is less than a
reference voltage level.

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